Submarines Lying Idle Due to Lack of Maintenance

1363. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether few submarines are lying idle due to lack of maintenance; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make these submarines sea-worth?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Accumulations in NDF

1364. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount accumulated in the National Defence Fund as on January 31st, 2000;

(b) the amount of compensation given to each martyr's family and total involvement so far;

(c) whether it is proposed to deposit the surplus amount for future use or divert it to some other urgent use like relief to super cyclone affected people of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As on 31st January, 2000, a sum of Rs. 472.56 crores was collected in National Defence Fund (NDF).

(b) The following financial benefits have been given to the families of the soliders killed in Kargil operations, from NDF**.**

(i) grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per family for acquiring dwelling unit;

(ii) grant of Rs. 1 lakh per child or Rs. 2 lakhs per family for children's education; and

(iii) a sum of Rs. 1.2 lakh in fixed deposit to ensure Rs. l.000/- permonth ex-gratia to dependant parents of each deceased solider.

A sum of Rs. 48.95 crores has been released form NDF for the above.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Enquiry by Chief of Staff, Northern Command

1365. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE -be pleased to state;

(a) whether Lt. General Reddy, Chief of Staff, Northern Command, has been appointed to inquire into the events leading up to the Kargil conflict;

(b) whether it is appropriate for Lt. General Reddy to conduct the inquiry which involves his seniors like Lt. General, H.M. Khanna, the Northern Army Commander; and

(c) by when the enquiry is going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The GOC-in-C, Northern Command directed his Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. A.R.K. Reddy, PVSM, AVSM, to carry out an overall appraisal of the Kargil operations. The appraisal has since been completed. The appraisal is not in the nature of an enquiry.

Such appraisals are part of an established practice in the Army and can be ordered by a formation commander with the objective of drawing lessons from an operation for the future.

The Army has carried out an in-house review, subsequent to this appraisal.